

RESOLUTION ON CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET RECONCILIATION

- WHEREAS, Congress in just three weeks has developed and passed massive budget reconciliation measures changing the laws governing over 250 federal programs and combining many of them into block grants; and
- WHEREAS, these changes in laws were made without benefit of public hearings or opportunity for careful consideration by Congress of the effects of its actions; and
- WHEREAS, the budget reconciliation process as it has been employed this year subverts the system of checks and balances so carefully built into our democratic form of government; and
- WHEREAS, these reconciliation measures, which are now in conference between House and Senate, make major changes in the federal library programs developed by Congress over the past twenty-five years; and
- WHEREAS, libraries have not been able to plan for the severe reductions imposed by this legislation, and libraries are not able to absorb the cuts, but must instead reduce library and information services to the people of the United States;
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Library Association urge House-Senate conferees on the budget reconciliation measures to accept the higher of the available figures for federal library program authorizations; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the American Library Association express its concern to Congress about the revision of basic laws in such a hasty and ill-conceived manner.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
San Francisco, California
July 1, 1981
(Council Document #71.1)